

When Republicans were repeatedly faced with the prospect of abolishing the legislative filibuster during the previous administration, we said no, not because there wasn't important legislation we wanted to pass but because we knew that the best thing for our country and for our future representation in the Senate was to preserve this essential protection for the minority.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to think of their future and our country and make the same decision.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 327, Anne A. Witkowski, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anne A. Witkowski, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 1 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Grassley	Rosen
Bennet	Hassan	Rounds
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Shaheen
Brown	Hoeven	Smith
Burr	Kaine	Stabenow
Cantwell	Kelly	Sullivan
Capito	King	Tester
Carper	Klobuchar	Thune
Casey	Leahy	Tillis
Collins	Lujan	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Warnock
Cramer	Merkley	Warren
Crapo	Murphy	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Padilla	Wicker
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Fischer	Reed	Young
Gillibrand	Romney	

NAYS—24

Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Moran
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—14

Cardin	Menendez	Risch
Feinstein	Murkowski	Rubio
Graham	Murray	Sanders
Hawley	Ossoff	Sinema
Inhofe	Portman	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 62, the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senate recess until 2 p.m. and the postcloture time on the Witkowski nomination expire at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and memory of former Senate Majority Leader Harry Mason Reid. To some in this Chamber, Senator Reid was a colleague, a mentor, a friend. To me and to so many Nevadans, he was also a source of inspiration and pride. His life, coming from the humblest of beginnings, is the definition of the American dream.

During his decades of public service, from the State assembly to the Lieutenant Governor's Office, to chairing the Nevada Gaming Commission, he became the most powerful leader in Congress. This former boxer from a tiny town called Searchlight always put Nevada first.

Senator Reid served five terms in this very Chamber, and what he accomplished during those decades here, particularly as majority leader, is remarkable. Senator Reid stopped Yucca Mountain. He made sure Nevada would not become the Nation's nuclear waste dump. He is the reason we passed the Affordable Care Act into law, providing quality, affordable healthcare to tens of millions of Americans. He did more than anyone to rescue Nevada's econ-

omy from the depths of the great recession. He passed crucial Wall Street reform to hold the big banks accountable for that economic crisis and prevent a future one. He established Nevada's first national park, Great Basin National Park. He saved Social Security from being privatized. He was a fearless champion for bold action to stop climate change, and he was a tireless fighter for comprehensive immigration reform and the Dream Act.

Because Senator Reid celebrated our State's diversity and recognized its importance, Nevada is an early State, the first in the West when it comes to choosing each party's nominee for the White House. No matter the issue, if it impacted Nevada, you can be sure Senator Reid would do anything to deliver for our State. He was a voice for all Nevadans, and if you ever went to an event for Senator Reid, he would remind you by making sure "Home Means Nevada"—that is our State song—was sung in honor of our beloved State.

This is how he got things done. He was blunt. He was direct. He was a real straight shooter. He didn't mince words. When he identified a problem, he would work relentlessly to find a solution. As so many of us here know, you could try as hard as you wanted to, but you could never leave the conversation or hang up the phone before he did. He said what he needed to and was on to his next piece of work.

I want to share the best advice Senator Reid gave to me. He said this: Take every call. Listen to every person, whether you agree with them or not, and then tell them when you are with them and tell them when you are not. Be open and honest in your conversations.

These are words I try to live by here every day. They were things Senator Reid was respected for.

Senator Reid also knew that the constituent services, the work we do with our teams, literally saves lives and directly helps families, and it touches so many people. It is the most important and personal work we do and, through that work, can often become the foundation for legislation at the Federal level.

When I was thinking about whether or not to run for the Senate, Senator Reid invited me and my husband Larry over to his home to talk to him about making that decision. Well, in Senator Reid's style, instead of taking the lead to tell us what to do and give us advice, he actually asked his wife Landra to talk to us about her experience.

Well, anyone who has met Landra Reid knows what an incredible woman she is. Senator Reid was a family man, and he adored her and their children, of course, grandchildren, and I believe even great-grandchildren so very much. As my friend Brian Greenspun wrote the other day in the Las Vegas Sun, "To Harry Reid the greatest accomplishment he had was his family."

Anyway, in Senator Reid's living room, Landra told me and my husband

how she juggled being a mom of not one, not two, not three, not four, five kids—five kids—while Harry was working as a Capitol Police officer to put himself through law school while running tough campaigns and while serving long days and nights in Washington. Needless to say, there is not much that can top that. So the Reids provided my family with the inspiration I needed as I was considering what a life in the public view would look like.

Their love for each other, their journey and ability to make it work over six decades—raising kids, keeping their love strong—showed me how important it was to have a strong family, of course, and friends as the foundation for this work of public service.

You know, we spend a lot of time here in Washington talking about politics every day, but it is the personal things at the end of the day we all know really matter, and that is the work that Senator Reid did for Nevadans. He fought to make families' lives just a little bit easier, whether they knew it or not, so that they could focus on what matters, what was most important to them.

I want to honor Senator Reid for his lifetime of fighting the good fight for our State. He helped make Nevada what it is today—a world-class destination and truly a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I want to thank Landra and the entire Reid family for sharing their husband, their father, and their grandfather with Nevada and with the Nation. The American people have benefited so much because of their sacrifices and his willingness to serve. Thank you.

Thank you, Senator Reid.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, on Monday, the United States set a new pandemic record with more than 1 million new cases in 24 hours. I am sure you and I and everyone who is thinking about this would have hoped we would be in a very different place right now than we are, but it is pretty significant, 2 years into the pandemic, to set that kind of record.

What is most concerning about this is many people who are concerned with catching the virus or who think they may already have it can't get access to tests. I just heard earlier today on a

call where the administration was providing information that they have asked for a request for information about who could provide a test and then made a request for proposals about who might be able to provide tests.

But we are way down the road to be asking about who can provide tests. Congress has provided more than \$80 billion for COVID testing. If you look at the size of the defense budget, this is a pretty big percentage of the defense budget.

We have lost track, I think, of how much money \$1 billion or \$1 trillion or \$80 billion is, but the administration has had \$80 billion. Over half of it, \$47 billion, they got in March in the American Rescue Plan. This is supposed to cover everything from research and development of new rapid tests to manufacturing and purchase of these tests, to funding for State and local governments to distribute these tests. Here we are 9 months later, and we are concerned that we don't have tests because we don't have enough tests.

For the last month, Americans have faced long lines at testing centers. They have gone to places where they thought they could purchase a rapid test to find empty shelves.

The question I really have is the same that many Americans have, which is what went wrong? Why are we facing such a shortage of tests now? How could we possibly have had \$80 billion available for a minimum of 9 months and now we are back in a testing problem?

I think the answer surely is not a lack of funding but, I think, more fundamentally, a lack of strategy, a lack of priority, and a failure to anticipate the ongoing testing needs by the administration.

When this administration came into office, their COVID-19 policy could have been called "Vaccines First." And while I have been vaccinated and while I have urged all Americans to get a vaccine unless your doctor tells you not to, it has always been clear to me that the vaccine was only one part of the process.

In fact, if you remember, from the very first, the vaccines were at a level that indicated that roughly 1 out of 10 people that had a vaccine would also get COVID. What we know now is that person who gets COVID that had a vaccine is not going to be incredibly affected by it, in all likelihood, but it shouldn't have been a shock that many people who got a vaccine would also get COVID and would also want to know if they had COVID.

Yet, for a full year, the administration has focused almost exclusively on one thing and testing and treatments have not had the attention they should have had or now that they must have. That failure has come at a steep cost. Today, Americans can't find over-the-counter tests, and the Nation lacks a comprehensive reliable testing infrastructure.

Early in the pandemic, former Senator Lamar Alexander and I were on the phone nearly every day with officials from the Department of Health and Human Services to get a better understanding of how to fight the virus. He was the chairman of the appropriating committee. I was the chairman of the authorizing committee. We thought we had come up with a plan that, if carried out, would work just right. In fact, the result of those conversations was a twofold testing response.

First, we started a program at the National Institutes of Health we called RADx, which we kind of based, roughly, on the TV program "Shark Tank," where people brought ideas in about how they could produce a test in ways those tests were not being produced. Over \$1 billion was invested directly with a dozen different companies that are producing today almost all of the tests that are available in stores.

But, obviously, being sure that they were producing them at the volume that they needed to be produced was something we should have been paying attention to. We wanted to bring more tests to the market. We wanted to do it as quickly as possible and provide the necessary government intervention to do so.

In the first 6 months of the RADx Program, at the end of that 6 months, they were delivering 2 million tests a day and 100 percent of all of the tests that were available for at-home testing.

Secondly, Senator Alexander and I thought that testing should be widespread and easily available, easy to take. As we pushed to reopen schools and keep them open, we want to do the things that have a test that is frequent, that is inexpensive, and makes sense. We went on and appropriated more than \$30 billion for testing activities in the first five bipartisan bills to deal with COVID.

Later, in the American Rescue Plan, an additional \$47.8 billion for testing activities was made available. Now, remember this is legislation that was partisan in nature. No Republican voted for it. It had easier transfer authority from category to category than any appropriations bill in the last 10 years, and, frankly, we sent a letter to the Secretary of HHS this week—Senator BURR and I did—asking exactly what did this money get spent on. I am afraid we are going to find out not nearly all of it got spent on testing.

The lack of funding has not been a problem, and I think we need to know what happened to the money and what we need to do to make the kind of investment now that we thought that \$80 billion would surely have made.

When people asked last month about the difficulties in getting tests and why the administration wasn't making tests free and available, the White House Press Secretary said—she just dismissed the idea out of hand. Then, less than 3 weeks later, they did an